

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS COVID-19 UPDATE

7 April 2020

We hope that you all found the Palm Sunday service and Passiontide Carols as meaningful as they could be over the Internet! The Churchwardens certainly appreciate all that Father Ernest, Brett and Nicola are putting into our live-streamed Eucharists to make them as good a fit as possible with a media-based participation.

We remind you of the following arrangements which will remain in place for at least ninety days:

1. Some church groups may be able to meet via video / on-line arrangements. Avenues are being explored.
2. Private hiring of the church hall has ceased.
3. The “Have A Yarn” project continues. Parishioners are being telephoned to see if anyone needs help—we will help in any way within our ability with things that can’t be done by your family and friends—and to “have a yarn”. If you would like to be part of this, either ringing a few people each week or would like to receive a call, or need help, please let Cynthia or Meg know

Reach Cynthia at pastoralcaresjohnsgordon@gmail.com, Meg at 9498 2744 or office@stjohnsgordon.org.au.

Alternatively, feel free to contact any of the Churchwardens at any time, using the contact details on the back of the pew bulletin. All calls will, of course, be in confidence.

NEW INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Monday, 6 April, at “virtual meeting” of the Diocesan Presentation Board tasked with finding our new Rector, it was resolved that *this Nomination Board requests the Archbishop to suspend the operation of Clause 24 of the Nomination Ordinance 2006 (the requirement for the first nomination to be made in six months) and Clause 27 (the overall time frame of thirteen months to make a nomination) of the Ordinance because of the present national health crisis and the government restrictions on meetings”.*

The St John’s members of that Board are continuing in their search despite that suspension; however, visiting parishes or having one-on-one in-person interviews is clearly not possible for the time being. The nominators are determined, with God’s grace, to find the best and most suited candidate and ask for your continued prayers for their work as they consider the applicants.

BISHOP MICHAEL, MISSION, LECTIO

Due to required social distancing and travel restrictions, Bishop Michael will not be able to return to us in May, as previously scheduled, for another mission. He desires to have expanded discussions based on his current Lectio series on the Book of Revelation. Times, topics and technology will be shared when possible.

For those of you who are not yet receiving the Lectio, which Bishop Michael has been writing and sharing with us since 2012, you should know that it is free for our parishioners and the Churchwardens could not recommend it more highly.

HANDYMAN MEN'S "HELPING US GROUP" (HUGS)

We are forming a new men's group to be known as the "Helping Us Group", geared around carrying out odd jobs for those elderly or disabled parishioners who need help, carrying out small repairs, maintenance tasks such as light bulb or tap washer changes, assembling purchased kits for furniture or appliances or even driving tasks. This will not include licensed electrical or plumbing work (other than simple tasks such as mentioned above), nor will we allow working at heights or other work for which a WHS ticket is required.

As soon as we have a viable group of willing handymen who have put their names forward, we will work out the details, so if you are handy, have a few tools and would be prepared to help out on a rostered or shared basis from time to time, let Meg McDonald or Chris Russell know. This is an exciting and much-needed service to our parish and we would urge you to consider it as a wonderful (and enjoyable) volunteer opportunity.

OFFERTORY AND CASH FLOW

The Churchwardens are closely monitoring our cash flow and this week are revising budgets and commitments for 2020. The Treasurer will shortly be providing his summary of our financial position. The Churchwardens can report that with your continued financial help, frugal expenditure and careful monitoring, the parish is currently financial stable and holds sufficient cash reserves to meet our obligations and run the parish, despite the current absence of services and the operation of the Op Shop.

We are, however, very dependent on members of the parish who, despite the lack of direct contact on Sundays, are maintaining their level of financial support. We would prayerfully request that you review and continue with or increase your weekly giving as your personal circumstances allow, bearing in mind the current unusual and difficult situation we find ourselves in.

We note that a number of parishioners do not use Internet banking and would prefer to go to the bank and pay their weekly offertory directly into the church account. You can easily do this at any branch of any bank simply by quoting the BSB number and account number below to the bank teller. Alternatively, you can leave your offertory in an envelope addressed to the Treasurer at the church office when it is open, usually on a Tuesday or Thursday (ring first on 9498 2744 to check). If all else fails, you can contact any of the Churchwardens or the Acting Rector at any time using the contact details in this bulletin. Finally, if you are in the habit of making your offering by envelope or by cash in the collection plate, the Churchwardens would ask you to consider making your weekly offertory either by changing to direct debit or by making a transfer to the St John's account at:

Account Name:	St Johns Church Gordon
BSB:	032083
A/C:	810231

Thank you for your prayerful support and if there is anything you need or would like to suggest for our parish, feel free to “have a yarn” at any time.

We wish you a very happy and holy Eastertide as we remember Jesus’ sacrifice and glorious resurrection, a knowledge that will surely carry us through these difficult times and strengthen our faith despite so much of the lifestyle and personal relationships that we have come to take for granted being so strained or suspended by the current health crisis.

The Churchwardens—

Chris Russell AM

JK Seo

James Winter